Harassment of Indian lady

5051. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of a harrowing tale of racial abuse perpetrated in US when an Indian-born female Canadian was harassed at Chicago Airport, was forced back to India in Kuwaiti Airlines after her passport was mutilated by INS officials, and ultimately she had to get emergency passport at Kuwait after three days, thereby causing avoidable mental torture; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take with the US Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) Government is aware that a Canadian lady of Indian origin was subjected to harassment at Chicago Airport by officials of the Immigration and naturalization Service of the United States Government. The reason for the alleged harassment was, according to her, because of the fact that she looked Indian but held a Canadian passport and bore a Spanish name.

(b) Since the victim is a Canadian national, under international law, it is the primary responsibility of the Government of Canada to seek redressal from the Government of USA. It is learnt that the victim herself has petitioned the Canadian Prime Minister in this regard.

Foreign Policy to bring peace

5052. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the most important issue for the 21st centuary is to bridge the misunderstandings between the West and the Islamic countries so as to avert a warlike situation as is developing in Iraq and move towards peaceful environment;

(b) if so, how far our foreign policy and diplomacy is oriented toward achieving that end in various world forums like UNO, NAM and similar other organisations; and

(c) what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) to (c) Some scholars have propounded the theory of "Clash of Civilisations" as the root cause of various regional conflicts. India

does not subscribe to this theory. India's foreign policy is wedded to the national ethos of peaceful co-existence between various religious and ethnic groups. India's endeavour at various international and regional forums has been to work towards promotion of peace and stability which are the pre-conditions for economic development and well-being of the people.

ASEAN code on employment of foreign nationals

5053. DR. M. N. DAS :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether India is planning to push for an ASEAN code on employment of foreign nationals to prevent harassment of its professionals working in South East Asian countries:

(b) If so, whether India has agreed to seek Singapore's help in this matter:

(c) Whether harassment for 200 Indian Information Technology professionals in Malaysia recently and arrest of Polaris CEO in Indonesia has forced New Delhi on this course of action;

(d) Whether this code will provide better working conditions for Indian professionals besides laying out clear guidelines on visa requirements and working norms: and

(e) If so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) No.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Visa restrictions imposed by Russia

5054. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Moscow has recently imposed visa restrictions on the countries that pose the threat of illegal immigration and India is one of them;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps are being taken to solve the problem;

(c) what have been the result of the meetings between the officials of the two countries: and